

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 7, 2004. Claims 1 to 5, 7 to 11, 15 to 19, 21 to 25 and 29 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 15 and 29 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the continuing indication that Claims 6 to 10 and 20 to 24, as originally presented, contain allowable subject matter.

Claims 1 to 11, 15 to 25 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

Independent Claims 1, 15 and 29 have been amended in accordance with the Examiner's reasons given in his indication of allowable subject matter for Claims 6 to 10 and 20 to 24 in the Office Action of November 9, 2001 (Paper no. 9). Therefore, Applicants submit that Claims 1, 15 and 29 are now in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

The foregoing actions have been taken without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter and without conceding the correctness of the rejections, but rather merely to secure an earlier allowance.

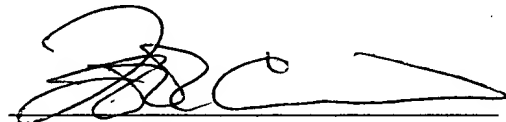
Dependent Claims 6 and 20 are canceled. Amended dependent Claim 7 now depends from Claim 1 and amended dependent Claim 21 now depends from Claim 15.

The remaining dependent claims are each dependent from the amended independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, individual consideration of each dependent claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, and no other matters being raised in the Office Action, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank L. Cire', written over a horizontal line.

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